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SEVENTIETH YEAR — NUMBER 25 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1958 FOURTEEN PAGES

City Hearing On Assessment Paving Plans

Some objections were registered to the proposed special assessment paving set up by Farmington City for next summer, at public hearings on four projects Monday night.

As usual, council members will study the plans and objections, and are expected to make a decision on each at the next regular meeting April 7.

OBJECTIONS came mainly from State street residents, where a petition had been circulated. Most of these present were opposed because the city council was unable to determine yet if State street between Farmington Road and Liberty would be included in the paving.

The planning consultants hired by the city had submitted a very tentative plan under which a proposed civic center in the block might be located elsewhere. However, City Manager Earl Scherffius says the planners are now re-studying their proposals for that certain area. Details of the tentative city improvement plan are elsewhere in this issue.

PAVING BIDS reported to the council by City Engineer Dean Elwart were unusually good. It was only the second such bidding in the Detroit area so far this year.

On the four proposed projects, all concrete, there was a decrease in prices of about 18 per cent over last year.

THE LOW BID was $136,900 for more than 31,000 square yards of pavement, and the high bid $169,223. This was $19,000 less than the city engineer had estimated. Bids are firm for 90 days.

Estimated costs for the four projects were:

State street, total of $22,071, city share $4,415, front foot lineal cost assessed property owners $8.20.

Liberty street, total $9,307, city share $2,525, lineal cost $7.78 per foot.

Wilmarth street, total $6,745, city share $2,586, lineal cost $8.38.

Mooney street, total $23,650, city share $1,653, lineal cost $10.

COUNCILMEN agreed to hold a joint hearing April 7 on the requested special assessment water extension on Farmington Road between 8 and 9 Mile roads, holding also a hearing on sanitary sewer installation there.

A public hearing was set for 7:30 p.m. April 7 on a request to vacate Ross street. All four adjoining property owners have requested this. They are George W. Checketts, John K. Cotton Jr., W. S. Kingsley and George H. Seitz.

THE CITY Planning Commission suggested creation of a new zoning district which would set larger minimum lot sizes. It proposed a 95 foot frontage and 12,000 square feet. The idea is to use it for certain areas when nearby lots are already larger, to keep smaller lots and houses out of a more expensive development. The proposal will be studied by the council.

A revised plumbing fee schedule was adopted, same as that for the City of Detroit and Farmington Township. Approval was also given a change in industrial zoning where the setback will now be 25 feet minimum. If the building faces a state or county highway there can be no parking in that 25 feet.

Left Turn Sign Coming Down

A fixture of the Farmington business scene for some years is coming down soon because of the expressway.

City Manager Earl Scherffius reported to the city council Monday night that the state highway department had, after traffic studies, approved the city's request to take down the no left turn sign at Farmington Road and Grand River.

Merchants think this will better the traffic flow into the business district, also.

Steal Wheels

Township police are now investigating the theft of three wheels and tires from a truck owned by Paul Davidson of 32298 Leelane, Farmington. The truck was parked at a sand pit on 13 Mile between Drake and Halstead Roads.

Hits Car, Crashes Into Utility Pole

Roxy E. Minnie of 29009 List Street was injured last week when her car went out of control and crashed into a utility pole after smashing into another car operated by Robert F. McCarron of Southfield.

The accident occured on Grand River at Middlebelt and resulted when the Minnie car, traveling south on Middlebelt, failed to stop for the red flasher at Grand River. McCarron was proceeding on Grand River.

Biggest Summer Baseball Program Yet Planned

Plans are now well underway for a bigger and better summer baseball program this year than ever, officials of the Farmington Baseball for Boys organization stated.

Meetings of Little League and Babe Ruth League officials, for the purpose of organizing all phases of the program, have been in progress ever since new officers were installed in December.

Letters are now being mailed out to all merchants and numerous parents in the community asking their financial support. Even the smallest contributions will be greatly appreciated, Baseball for Boys officials said, and will help greatly in making the program a success. Donations will be accepted at the Farmington Branch of the National Bank of Detroit and at Detroit Bank and Trust. Checks should be made payable to the Farmington Baseball for Boys.

Plans have now been completed for the Annual Little League Spring Rally, it was indicated. It will be held on Monday, March 31, at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium at the Farmington Senior High School. All boys 8 through 12 years of age and their parents, as well as others interested in Little League, are invited to attend. The baseball program for this summer will be outlined and a movie on baseball shown.

Jaycee Minstrel Set for Fri., Sat.

Final rehearsals have been completed for the eleventh annual Farmington JC "Fine 'N Dandy Minstrel Show" to be presented this Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22 at the Junior High School gymnasium on Thomas Street.

A total of 32 acts will be included in this year's two hour show, according to Bill Conroy, director.

The show will be divided into two principal scenes with the first scene taking place in the afternoon on the plantation of Colonel Bob Foster in Louisiana. The curtain will open at 8:15 p.m. with a medley of songs by the Fine 'N Dandy chorus.

This year's interlocuter will be Pat Ryan who portrays the owner of the plantation.

Scene two takes place in the early evening on the plantation with the Magnolia Festival celebration and opens (with another medley of songs by the chorus.

While a limited number of tickets will be available at the door of the gymnasium, residents are urged to obtain them in advance from any Jaycee member or at Davis and Lent Menswear or Phil Thomas Jewelers.

C'ville School Election Studied

Details of the May 12 bond issue election for Clarenceville Public Schools were discussed at the regular board of education meeting March 13. Some community meetings to explain details will be held.

The proposed 1958 - 59 budget is being studied by the board. Members voted to buy metal basket racks for the boys' locker room.

The Clarenceville Student Council has taken a stand against wearing blue jeans at school, and thus notified the board. Members decided to table the proposal, and to send a preliminary draft of such a ban to the Student Council before taking official action.

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Future of Farmington Studied by 2 Groups

Many people, for different reasons, are concerned about the future of the Farmington area, both township and city.

They see Novi Township voting to incorporate as a village, what has happened in the City of Livonia, what has happened to older townships which failed to plan ahead and are now a multitude of different kinds of municipalities, all with great problems.

They hear talk of several areas in the township studying possibilities of incorporating as villages, of industrial zones in the township, of township sewer and water services. Some fear annexation by the City of Farmington.

The problems are many and complicated, and there may be no "black and white" answer as to what would be best for the entire area.

Two organizations are now going ahead with plans to seek out and give publicity to some of the main problems, in the belief that all citizens should be given as much information pro and con as possible, enabling each to have a proper basis for an opinion or vote.

The Farmington Township League of Subdivision Associations represents 20 of the larger subdivisions in the township. Total membership may not be a majority of the township population, yet its leadership is respected and responsive to its homeowners. It has made a report to its members, sent out a questionnaire, and is trying to assemble a mass of opinion about some of the more important problems.

The Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce has membership throughout the township, as well as in Farmington City, and is trying to represent fairly the entire area. It has started a complete study of problems of the area and possible forms of government. The board of directors has explicitly stated it wants to present advantages and disadvantages of the several possible forms of government which might (but may not) lead to some recommendations.

Neither group pretends it is capable of studying all the problems of the area, but hopes the facts unfolded will be helpful to all citizens. As these and other studies go forward, they will be reported in The Enterprise.

The Chamber of Commerce

A preliminary report from the new city - township - village committee was approved by the board of directors of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce Monday noon, and the committee instructed to go ahead with an ambitious project.

On the stated premise that needs and demands of people in the township are not being met by the township form of government here,

THE GROUP stressed they are not studying a possible city - township merger, but will try to ascertain and outline advantages and disadvantages of all types of government.

Russell W. Ellis heads the new committee, working under the C of C planning and zoning committee which has Harry Farmer as chairman. Both reported at the board meeting.

GIST OF the program which was approved is contained in the report given by Chairman Farmer, which follows:

In recent years rapid growth in population has led to dispersion of residential and commercial development into the Greater Farmington area, which heretofore had been considered a rural community.

UNPRECEDENTED growth has caused many problems in the township as well as the city, involving health, safety and general welfare of this community. The situation in which this area finds itself is not unlike many other areas. Some have done something about it. According to the Michigan Municipal League, established in 1899, since there are no two situations exactly the same, there is no one solution which will work equally well in all cases. In most instances such problems have been solved by providing these areas with municipal services through annexation, some type of municipal corporation, or special authority.

The Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce has set up a special study committee to collect and assemble such available information on types of municipal government, as well as investigate the histories of other areas which during the past years have attempted to, or have, solved these similar problems. The Chamber believes the work of this committee is important and timely. All Chamber members will be informed of the committee studies and findings at regular membership meetings.

IT MAY be assumed that such study will result in a series of public meetings sponsored by the Chamber, so that all those interested may be fully informed.

It also may be assumed that such study may result in the Chamber making such recommendations to the public as the study indicates.

League of Subdivision Ass'ns

The Farmington township interceptor sewer project and the question of industrial zoning are the major issues discussed in a report of the Farmington Township League of Subdivision Associations mailed to the entire membership last week.

Contents are of a brief and preliminary nature, the report stated, and committees are continuing their studies.

A QUESTIONNAIRE accompanied the mailing, and the League anticipates a better than average return on these since the issues appear to be controversial.

On industrial zoning the question is whether, from the limited report given, the member would favor industrial zoning. Another asks if the member would like more definite listing of locations and boundaries under consideration.

QUESTIONS on the sewer system are about present systems used by individuals, willingness to pay estimated costs, and whether or not the whole issue should be referred to a vote.

Other questions ask reactions about such things as the City of Detroit dump fill on private property, consideration of a Board of Review on complaints against builders, the dog question, speed limits within the township, also the township rubbish pickup program and the road situation.

WHAT KIND of a community do you want, is a broad question included. There are two choices listed: rural, with its well - known inconveniences but recognized and wanted advantages, or urban with the conveniences provided by government services and facilities and the naturally increased costs.

Also included in the mailing is a directory which provides a listing of important services in the township, with telephone numbers and locations.

It includes a complete map of the school district showing locations of existing schools and additions, schools under construction, and land sites already purchased. Names of board of education members and school officers with telephone numbers are included.

THE REPORT is quite complete on both sewer and industrial zoning, giving what facts are presently available, and asking questions about what facts are not yet determined.

Much of the information about the interceptor sewer has already appeared in The Enterprise.

ZONING FOR industry is discussed pro and con in the report, with this part prepared by the League's planning and zoning committee. Information is based on material furnished by groups for and against the proposal, and a report

(See League of Subs, page 5A)

Tentative Route of Super-Highway Between 11 - 12 Mile Rds. Revealed

The tentative route of the proposed the new east-west super-highway running the entire width of Farmington Township to link Northwestern Highway with the Farmington - Brighton Expressway was disclosed Monday night.

An aerial map prepared by State Highway Dept. engineers showing the proposed path of the highway between 11 and 12 Mile Roads was shown publicly for the first time by Township Supervisor Frank Stephenson at a meeting of the Springland Civic Association. Around 75 persons were in attendance at the meeting including several interested residents in the vicinity of Springland Subdivision.

A STUDY of the map revealed that the super-highway will enter the township on the east a short distance to the south of the quarter-section line of Section 13. It will thence angle slightly northward to Middlebelt Road. From here it will follow a straight westerly course just north or the midway point between 11 and 12 Mile Roads until swinging slightly northward a short distance beyond Power Road. By - passing Quaker Valley, Pleasant Valley and Old Homestead Subdivisions on the north, the route will then swing southwestward around Halstead and continue at about a 45 degree angle to connect with the Farmington - Brighton Expressway a short distance beyond Haggerty.

OVERPASSES are called for at Inkster, Middlebelt, Orchard Lake, Farmington, Drake, Halstead and Haggerty Roads, it was indicated on the map.

The biggest problem spot along the proposed route appears to be in Section 14. The route runs between Springland Subdivision to the south and Forest Hills Subdivision to the north. Directly in the path of the proposed route in this section is the Trinity Episcopal Church, a site for a new elementary school, a highly valued estate and a beautiful forested area.

When questioned on the need for the super - highway, Stephenson stated that it had been indicated to him that the route was determined as being necessary to satisfy rapid population increases throughout this area, both present and projected.

A map showing the proposed location of lateral trunk lines from the main sewer interceptor line running down Middlebelt Road from Keego Harbor to Shiawassee Road in the township was also shown.

Seek C-D Firemen, Demolition Trainees

More men are still needed for the Civil Defense demolition group as well as more auxiliary firemen to train with regular volunteer firemen, Township C. D. Director Donald Pullen disclosed this week.

Persons interested in taking training with the demolition group are asked to get in touch with Al Gain, GR. 4-7529. Those wishing to train as auxiliary fireman are asked to contact Police Chief Irving Yakes, GR 4-1212, Hugh Owen, GR 4-4733, or Elmer O. Lell, MA 6-5463.

The Civil Defense fire-fighting group meets each Tuesday night.

Bel-Aire Hearing Is Again Adjourned

The hearing on the temporary injunction obtained by Bel-Aire Civic Improvement Ass'n against the property owner and developers of the proposed bowling alley on Outlot A has again been postponed.

It is scheduled to again come up in court at Pontiac March 31.

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EIGHTEEN SENIORS were initiated into the Farmington Senior High Chapter of the National Honor Society at an induction ceremony held last Thursday. Honor society students are: Front row, left to right: Georgianna Brown, Alayne Celinske, Pamela Chapman, Linda Clarke, Barbara Clayton, Judith Cook and Nancy DePodesta. Second row: Beverly Hale, Mary Durfee, RoseMary Heath, Ronald Jordan, Shirley Porter and Patricia Johnson. Back row: David Catherman, Ronald Appleby, Ben Ridings, Ed Fulton and James Marsh. These students were selected by a faculty committee on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service and character. All rate in the upper one-third of the class in scholarship. This is the largest number of seniors from one class ever to be named to the Society since a Farmington Chapter was organized in 1945. Some classes in the past have had a larger percentage, however, it was pointed out. Citations were awarded to each of the honor students at the assembly Thursday by Miss Ruth L. Bailey, chairman of the National Honor Society faculty committee.

Township To Ask Bigger Share Of County Money

There are good reasons for a larger township budget for the coming year, and if they are to be met the board members know they must ask the county allocation board for a larger share of the 15-mill limit. This would not mean asking more taxes, merely a redistribution of current tax moneys.

Township board members wrestled with budget requests and needs at a special meeting Tuesday night. They will hold one or more other meetings soon, and the proposed budget will be published April 3.

ANNUAL MEETING of the township will be Saturday, April 5, at Dunckel Junior High School, starting at 1 p.m.

Tuesday night all board members and Supervisor Frank Stephenson studied the itemized budget carefully. They considered various requests, and by agreement made some changes.

They didn't even total the tentative expenditures at the end of a long evening, but have no doubt considerable paring will yet have to be done.

THE PROPOSED budget is based on a substantial increase from the general property tax, not because there will be higher taxes but because the township hopes to get a greater share of the 15 mills.

Last year the township asked the county allocation board for one mill from the 15 mills. It got .86 of a mill. This year the request will be for two mills, and the board is hoping to get all of it, feeling a need can be shown.

REVENUE from the state will likely be down a little. Partly this is due to decreased income, and because the village of Wood Creek Farms now gets 2.3 per cent of the township funds from the state.

There were many requests for more money for different departments. Generally, one of the largest expenditures, wages, will follow last year with some exceptions.

SUPERVISOR Frank Stephenson is urging the township to purchase two pieces of road equipment, to be financed over three years. Board members are considering this, but want to be certain it will be legal, and a proper agreement with the county road commission will be executed in writing.

Partly because of a deficit last year, subtracted from the township allocation for roads this year, almost half the road fund allocation is already used this calendar year. Board members are very concerned about township roads, and would like to figure some way to get them in much better shape. This plan may offer the best method.

THE ROAD Commission now charges the township rental on equipment, and this is costly. With some equipment of its own, the township may be able to work out an agreement so that county road workers would be in the township every day of the week. Now they come in once or twice a week, Mr. Stephenson says. Under this plan, he said, the township is getting improper materials and improper maintenance.

He feels many people in the township would approve some expenditures here because of the continuing bad road situation.

THE ASSESSOR department may get some additional funds so another man can be hired. Members would like very much to complete the reappraisal program in

(See Township Budget, page 6A)

City Downtown Plan Proposed

A very tentative proposal of a downtown plan for Farmington city was presented the city planning commission last Thursday night by Geer and Associates, city planning consultants.

It is already to be re-studied as a result of suggestions, and the planning commission hopes to discuss it soon with some of the business people involved. When it is a little more definite, perhaps in a couple of weeks, it may be presented to the public for discussion.

THE PLAN if adopted would be a master plan for the city to work toward. It might take 20 or more years to attain the major share of it, depending to great extent on how private businesses participated.

Roughly the plan proposes commercial businesses along both sides of Grand River and Farmington Road, with the triangle created by those roads and Slocum being used for parking. Businesses on the outside of this triangle would ideally face both onto the street and the parking area.

If the plan would be approved the city's zoning policy all along Grand River and Farmington Road would have to be tied into the plan immediately.

Twp. to Buy 2 Police Cars

Faced with an emergency situation, the Township Board Tuesday night authorized purchase of two police cars.

One car was damaged so badly a couple days ago in a collision it may be a total wreck. There will be insurance collected on this. The other car is in bad shape and taking regular costly repairs. It can be traded in.

It's likely the township will buy two Pontiac police cars, just like those used by Oakland county police. Details of the purchase were arranged by Clerk Floyd A. Cairns with cooperation of Sheriff Irons.

Cost will go into next year's budget.

Woman Smashes Into Police Car

Township policemen John E. Polder and Earl Teeples suffered minor injuries early Tuesday morning when a car driven by Elizabeth G. Moody of 30960 Orchard Lake Road swerved into the path of the police car in which they were traveling.

The accident occured at 12:10 a.m. on Orchard Lake Road just south of 14 Mile Road. The police car was proceeding north on Orchard Lake when the Moody car, traveling south, cut directly into its path, a State Police report revealed.

ARRAIGNED before Township Justice James Lawson on Tuesday on charges of driving while under the influence of alcohol, Elizabeth Moody pled not guilty and was released on $50 bond pending a trial on April 2.

Although all three involved in the crash were injured, none were hurt seriously.

Approximately $500 worth of damage was done to the police car and $300 worth to the Moody auto.

2 Gas Stations Broken Into

Two service stations in the township were broken into late last Friday night or early Saturday morning, Township Police Chief Irving Yakes disclosed.

Three tires, 13 cartoons of cigarettes, three cigarette lighters and a quanity of candy bars were taken from Steve's Texaco at 28420 Grand River. The second station broken into was Moffett Service at 30520 Grand River, which has been broken into twice previously within the last two months. A small amount of change and an unknown quanity of cigarettes were taken.

Entry in both cases was made by breaking out windows at the sides of the buildings.